



# **Unite Oregon Community-Led Engagement**

# Unite Oregon



## Mission:

Led by people of color, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, tenants, and people experiencing poverty, we work across Oregon to build a unified intercultural movement for justice.

We work to build community power through **Community organizing, leadership development, civic engagement and meaningful policy change!**

# Community Organizing



We do focus groups, community meetings, leadership development and advocacy

# Why do we organize?

- We organize because it is easier to ignore one person than it is to ignore three or more
- We organize because we can accomplish more if there are more of us



# T2020 Community Meetings



**Neighborhoods should be involved in planning.**

The government does not need to do all of the planning. Civic leaders need to reach out to neighborhood and help develop a new generation of people who can represent communities. Engage communities consistently throughout planning processes.

# Community Dialogue Takeaway

- Affordable housing that is equitable and accessible to all
- Safe, comfortable and efficient transportation experience for all
- Provide technical assistance and have resources widely available to support non english speakers and elderly to help navigate our transportation system

# Community-based priorities - actions



## **Safety: Safe routes to school and Safety hot spots**

- There is a need for more and better street lights. Dark bus stops, transit stations, crosswalks and sidewalks feel unsafe and discourage people from walking and allowing their children to walk. Better lighting was a concern for both safe routes to school and safety hot spots.
- Safety at transit stops is a concern. Comments frequently included lighting, personal safety, wait times, and crossing the street to access a stop.
- More frequent transit service and bus stops near school would help students use buses to get to school
- Improved lighting at street crossings, including flashing lights and better signals, are needed.

# Community-based priorities - actions



## Regional walking and biking connections

- ❖ More designated/separated bikeways and paths for walking are needed.

The bikeways and paths should be safe: well-lit with emergency call buttons and bike speeds should be limited where there are pedestrians.

### ❖ **Revitalizing main streets**

As main streets are improved, gentrification and displacement happens.

There is more concern about neighborhood streets than business streets.



# Community-based priorities - actions



## Anti-displacement strategies and Affordable housing options

- **Communities should be able to stay where they are.** Existing residents should have access to quality housing that is close to amenities and services such as: gathering places and parks, transit, pedestrian and bicycle paths and small businesses
- More affordable housing options are needed for people at risk of being displaced, and especially for people with disabilities, elders and students. A diversity of rental and ownership options are needed—multifamily and single family.
- Rents are increasing and incomes are not. Participants discussed a variety of tools to support housing affordability in areas planned for transportation investments, including rent control, income-based rent, non-profit housing, property tax deferrals, mortgage assistance, and limiting investors purchasing properties as investment properties.
- Information and education is needed about housing assistance programs that currently exist. People who are not citizens are not sure they have access to programs that citizens have access to.
- Current residents and small businesses, especially culturally/historically significant businesses, need protection.

# Community-based priorities - actions



## Better Bus

- Bus stops should have shelters (protection from the weather), lighting, comfortable seating, and reader boards with bus schedules. The need for shelters was emphasized by many participants.
- Wait times are long. There should be more frequent service and more direct service to destinations such as major stores and health care services. Look beyond Portland for better bus projects to other community hubs, such as Oregon City. Transit deserts- There are areas where there aren't bus services, some are around big apt complexes. There needs to be an easement of which areas need to be serve and address transit inequality.
- Buses should reach more neighborhoods (ex. East Multnomah County), and destinations, such as parks and natural areas.
- Expresses buses are needed for long distances and to connect towns in the greater Portland area.
- **Navigating transit routes and payment can be difficult for non-English speakers. Consider information along routes and on transit in other languages, especially where there are communities speaking those languages. Also, consider a community liaison who can assist people in navigating fares and transit apps. For example, there are seniors who aren't aware and don't know how to access reduced senior fares.**

**Thank you METRO for listening to All Community Members!**

